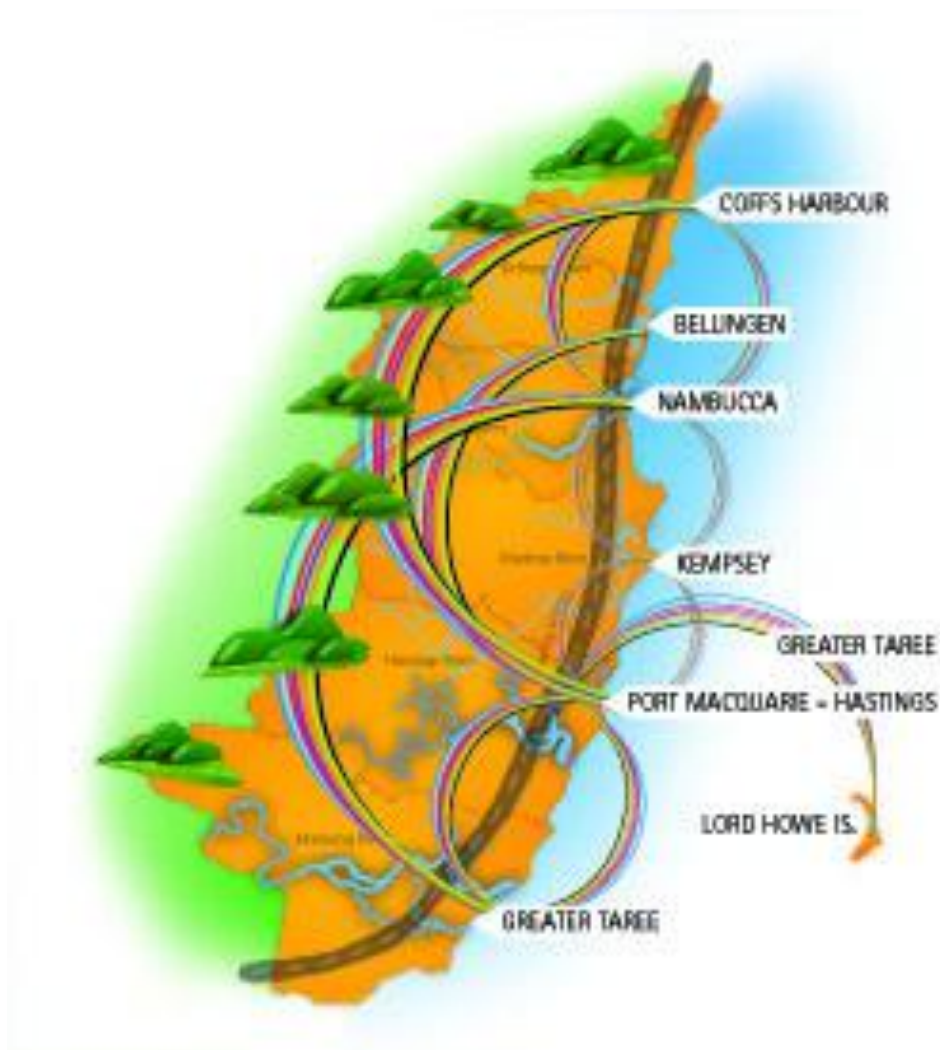


# Migrant Information Booklet



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# Your first 60 days

## Information booklet for skilled migrants moving to the Mid North Coast

This booklet has been prepared to help migrants who are moving to the Mid North Coast of NSW, Australia, to make their transition and assimilation into the area. We have focussed on the important things you might need to do within the first 60 days of arriving in Australia.

**Important:** The role of RDA Mid North Coast is to assess certain visa applications. We are not an employment agency or a support service for eligible migrants who have been issued a Visa, so please use the contact details shown below to direct any questions you may have to the appropriate organisation.

Please note, you will require funds to support your move to the mid north coast and to cover all expenses until you are able to secure employment within the region.

RDA MNC recommends that you look for employment in the mid north coast as soon as you have been granted a Visa from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP). This may determine in which area of the mid north coast you choose to live.

## What to do before you move to Australia

Settling in a new country is a big decision. You will have to leave many of your relatives and friends, and move to a completely new area where everything is different. You will have to begin a new life, which is a challenge in itself. There might be a new language for members of your family to learn and a new culture to understand and assimilate to, which may have very different values and traditions from the ones you are used to.

So before moving to the Mid North Coast of NSW you need to decide if this region of Australia is right for you.

### Research

Find out as much information as you can about the Mid North Coast region and the town you are planning to settle in. You are moving to this region not only to find a job, but also to live here. Try and find out about the local community, lifestyle, cost of living, climate, schools for kids and other things that will help you settle here. You will find some links in this booklet as a starting point for your research.

### Mid North Coast Prospectus

<http://www.rdamnc.org.au/2014-mid-north-coast-prospectus/>

## Talk

Try to acquaint yourself with some people living in the Mid North Coast and talk to them about what it is like to live there. Gather as much information as you can so you can make an informed decision. Start building your own network of friends as they may be able to help you when you arrive.

## What to do after you arrive in Australia

Here is a list of important things for you to do as soon as possible after arriving in Australia.

### Emergency services

The Triple Zero (000) telephone service is the quickest way to get the right emergency service to help you. It should be used to contact Police, Fire or Ambulance services in life threatening or emergency situations.

### Travel to the Mid North Coast

The Mid North Coast region of New South Wales is located halfway between the major cities of Sydney and Brisbane. It is a 4-6 hour drive by car from either of those cities, so you will need to plan how you will get here.

#### By Road

If you have a vehicle, take the pacific highway (or M1) north from Sydney, or south from Brisbane. This highway passes through the Mid North Coast. It will take between 4-6 hours drive to get to your destination. Be aware that these capital cities have some toll roads that you need to pay to travel on. Hire cars are available at the airport but you will need to check what the charges are and whether the company allows you to drop the car off in a Mid North Coast location.

Vehicle Booking Sites

<http://www.thrifty.com.au>

<http://www.avis.com.au>

<http://www.budget.com.au>

To drive a motor vehicle in Australia you must hold a valid driver's licence and obey the road rules. As a new resident you can use your existing driver or rider licence for up to three months after which you will have to transfer to a NSW licence to continue driving.

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au>

#### By Train

The train service that links to the Mid North Coast is called Country Link. You will need to book a seat on this train in advance as limited seats are available. The train service takes 6-8 hours depending on your destination.

Country Link: 132 232 | <http://www.countrylink.info>

## **By Air**

The Mid North Coast has two main regional airports, one in Coffs Harbour and the other in Port Macquarie. The flight time is less than one hour from Sydney or Brisbane. Qantas and Virgin services fly daily to these airports.

Qantas: <http://www.qantas.com.au>

Virgin: <http://www.virginaustralia.com>

Rex: <http://www.rex.com.au>

## **Find somewhere to live**

When you arrive at your destination you'll need somewhere to stay.

### **Temporary accommodation**

Limited temporary accommodation is available in the region. If you are travelling with a family we would recommend staying in a caravan park, in a self-contained cabin. Some accommodation sites to search are:

<http://www.stayz.com.au>

<http://www.wotif.com>

<http://www.northcoastholidayparks.com.au>

<http://www.booking.com>

### **Renting or buying a property**

For a list of the latest properties available for rent or sale in your area, visit:

<http://www.domain.com.au>

<http://www.realestate.com.au>

## **Connect household services**

Whether you rent or buy, you may need to connect to some services. Some service providers are listed below, but there are others, so you should do your research to find the best deal. Try to give your chosen provider a week's notice before you expect to move to a new location.

### **Electricity Service**

Essential Energy: 13 23 91 | <https://www.essentialenergy.com.au>

AGL: 13 12 45 <http://www.agl.com.au>

Origin: 13 24 63 <http://www.origin.com.au>

Red Energy: 13 18 06 <http://www.redenergy.com.au>

<http://www.youcompare.com.au>

### Telephone Service

Telstra: 13 22 00 | <http://www.telstra.com.au>

Optus: 1800 780 219 <http://www.optus.com.au>

<http://www.youcompare.com.au>

### Internet Broadband Service

Telstra: 13 12 82 | <http://www.telstra.com.au>

<http://www.youcompare.com.au>

## Groceries and Shopping

Aldi

Coles

IGA

Woolworths

## Apply for a Tax File Number (TFN)

**Do this as soon as possible.** To receive any income in Australia you need a Tax File Number (TFN). You will not be able to work without it.

To apply for a Tax File Number you can telephone the Australian Taxation Office and have a TFN application form sent to you. Tel: 132 861 or obtain a form from participating Australia Post Offices.

Alternatively you can apply online at: <http://www.ato.gov.au/forms/tfn>

## Open a bank account

In Australia, payments from an employer are usually paid directly into a bank account. Most workplaces will require you to have a bank account before you can commence work.

If you open a bank account within six weeks of arriving in Australia, you might only need to present your passport as identification. After six weeks, you may need extra identification to open a bank account. You will need to go to a bank branch in person to open an account.

[http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/100\\_point\\_check](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/100_point_check)

## Look for work

If you do not already have a job lined up when you arrive in Australia you will need to look for work. A good place to start looking is the SEEK job search website:

<http://www.seek.com.au>

<http://www.jobs.com.au>

<http://www.menatwork.net.au>

Look under employment/labour hire or search local recruitment agencies, they may also be able to help you find work. There are many to choose from. One agency with offices spread across the Mid North Coast is ETC. You can check their website for the contact details of their nearest office:

<http://www.etcltd.com.au>

**Eather Recruitment:**

Ph: 6583 8222

Northpoint Building

3/2 Murray Street

Port Macquarie NSW 2444

<http://www.eatherrecruitment.com.au>

Email: [resumes@eatherrecruitment.com.au](mailto:resumes@eatherrecruitment.com.au)

### Paying tax and receiving employer superannuation payments

In most workplaces in Australia, tax is taken out of your wages or salary before it is transferred into your bank account. However there are tax obligations that you need to be aware of. Your employer will also make compulsory superannuation payments to a superannuation account of your choosing.

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has an audio-visual product that can help this. *Tax in Australia: What you need to know* is available from the ATO website: <http://www.ato.gov.au>

### Get private health insurance

As you are entering Australia on a professional visa, you will not be entitled to the Government health benefit scheme known as Medicare. So it is a good idea to register for private health insurance. Private health funds may cover or partly subsidise costs for your treatment as a patient in public and private hospitals and may include many other health services, such as dental or optical care and ambulance transport. If you want to purchase private health insurance it's important to compare different health funds to find the right plan for you.

Here are some useful websites:

<http://www.privatehealth.gov.au>

<http://www.iselect.com.au>

## Hospital Locations

### **Coffs Harbour Base Hospital**

Church St  
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450  
Ph: 02 6656 7000

### **Bellingen Hospital**

345 Pacific Hwy  
Bellingen NSW 2454  
Ph: 02 6659 5800

### **Macksville Hospital**

Boundary St  
Macksville NSW 2447  
Ph: 02 6568 0666

### **Kempsey District Hospital**

119 River St  
Kempsey NSW 2440  
Ph: 02 6562 6155

### **Port Macquarie Base Hospital**

Wrights Rd  
Port Macquarie NSW 2444  
Ph: 02 5524 2000

### **Manning Base Hospital**

26 York St  
Taree NSW 2430  
Ph: 02 6592 9111

## Enrol your children in school

Under Australian law the age at which schooling becomes compulsory is six years. Most children begin primary school at between four and a half and five and a half. All children must continue their education until 17 years of age, either at school or through some combination of training and employment. You should enrol your children in school as soon as possible.

The education system in Australia is open to all people. It offers an opportunity for all age groups and levels of ability. You can get into any level of education if you have the entry requirements. If at first a child or adult does not reach the entry standard, he or she can do other study to reach the standard. Help is available for people who suffer disadvantage.

There are two main types of schools:

- Public schools: The government provides public schools and public schooling is free.
- Private schools: These schools are run by other organisations and students pay fees to have a place in these schools. Private school fees vary from school to school.

Visit the NSW Public Schools locator link to find the best public school to enrol your children in.

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/schoolfind/locator/>

This directory may be useful in locating a private school in your area:

<http://www.privateschoolsdirectory.com.au>

Temporary Residents Program Application Form:

<http://www.decinternational.nsw.edu.au/study/schools/temporaryresident>

The positions in higher education, such as universities, have entry levels that students must achieve to gain a place. The students most likely to succeed get the positions first. Some students start higher education when they finish school; others start later as an adult.

The Mid North Coast region has several great universities and technical institutions. Visit the Mid Coast Uni Portal to find out more: <http://www.midcoastuniportal.com.au/>



## Develop your family's English speaking skills

In Australia, people will expect you to be able to speak English. If you are accompanied by family members who do not have a good grasp of the English language, you should consider enrolling them in English language classes. The good news is Australians are a fairly tolerant people and will generally accept a foreign person if they are seen to be making an effort to communicate and understand the culture.

One local institution that offers courses in developing English speaking skills is North Coast TAFE:  
<http://northcoast.tafensw.edu.au>

## Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

The Australian Government, through the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, provides a Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) for people who do not speak English. This service is available any time of the day, from anywhere in Australia for the cost of a local call. Most TIS services are free to non-English speakers.

TIS: 131 450 | <http://www.tisnational.gov.au>

## Further Help if needed

**Anglicare** – Migrant Services Program runs Monday to Friday  
59 Grafton St  
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450  
Ph: 6651 8764  
<http://www.anglicarenorthcoast.org.au>  
Email: [admincoffs@anglicare.org.au](mailto:admincoffs@anglicare.org.au)

### **North Coast Settlement Service**

Suites 2 & 3 No: 1 Duke St  
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450  
Ph: 5612 1370  
[http://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find\\_Help/NSW/Resettling\\_in\\_Australia](http://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Find_Help/NSW/Resettling_in_Australia)

### **Coffs Connect**

Helping Refugee entrants and Migrants settle into Coffs Harbour and the North Coast, providing, Casework, information, referral, and capacity building in Coffs Harbour, Lismore, Ballina, Tweed, as well as information distribution in the Clarence Valley.

<http://coffsconnect.com.au/north-coast-settlement-service>

## Local Government Council Areas

### **Coffs Harbour Shire Council**

2 Castle St  
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450  
Ph: 6648 4000  
<http://www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au>

### **Bellingen Shire Council**

33-39 Hyde St  
Bellingen NSW 2454  
Ph: 6655 7300  
<http://www.bellingen.nsw.gov.au>

### **Nambucca Heads Shire Council**

44 Princess St  
Nambucca Heads NSW 2447  
Ph: 6568 2555  
<http://www.nambuccaheads.nsw.gov.au>

### **Kempsey Shire Council**

22 Tozer St  
Kempsey NSW 2440  
Ph: 6566 3200  
<http://www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au>

### **Port Macquarie Hastings Council**

Cnr Lord & Burrawan St  
Port Macquarie NSW 2444  
Ph: 6581 8111  
<http://www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au>

### **Greater Taree City Council**

2 Pulteney St  
Taree NSW 2430  
Ph: 6592 5399  
<http://www.gtcc.nsw.gov.au>